

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying at least one of a plurality of communication channels available for communication between one of a plurality of devices and a server, the method comprising:

monitoring each of the plurality of communication channels between the plurality of devices and the server, wherein each monitored communication channel is connectable to a respective port among a plurality of ports of the server;

determining whether at least one of the plurality of communication channels is being used for the transmission of link pulses generated by the server, wherein the presence of link pulses on one of the communication channels indicates that that particular communication channel and the respective port on the server is not currently being used for data transmission by the server and is are available; and

establishing a connection between the device and the available server port using one of the available communication channels determined to have the link pulses.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the monitoring further comprises monitoring one of the plurality of communication channels at a time for the one or more link pulses.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the monitoring further comprises disabling the other of the plurality of communication channels while the one of the plurality of communication channels is monitored for the one or more link pulses.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the monitoring one of the plurality of communication channels is conducted by two or more of the devices.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4 further comprising blocking the communication channel monitored to have the link pulses for the one device from the other devices.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising providing an indication of which of the plurality of communication channels was the established communication channel for the device.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for providing network access by identifying at least one of a plurality of communication channels available for communication between one of a plurality of devices and a server, which when executed by one or more processors, causes the processors to perform the steps of:

monitoring each of the plurality of communication channels between the plurality of devices and the server, wherein each monitored communication channel is connectable to a respective port among a plurality of ports of the server;

determining whether at least one of the plurality of communication channels is being used for the transmission of link pulses generated by the server, wherein the presence of link pulses on one of the communication channels indicates that that particular communication channel and the respective port on the server is not currently being used for data transmission by the server and is are available; and

establishing a connection between the device and the available server port using one of the available communication channels determined to have the link pulses.

8. (Original) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein the monitoring further comprises monitoring one of the plurality of communication channels at a time for the one or more link pulses.

9. (Original) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein the monitoring further comprises disabling the other of the plurality of communication channels while the one of the plurality of communication channels is monitored for the one or more link pulses.

10. (Original) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein the monitoring one of the plurality of communication channels is conducted by two or more of the devices.

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11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 10 further comprising blocking the other devices from accessing the communication channel monitored to have the link pulses for the device.

12. (Original) The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 7 further comprising providing an indication of which of the plurality of communication channels was the established communication channel for the device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying at least one of a plurality of communication channels available for communication between one of a plurality of devices and a server, the system comprising:

a monitoring system that monitors each of the plurality of communication channels between the plurality of devices and the server, wherein each said channel is connectable to one respective port among a plurality of ports of the server, and determines whether at least one of the plurality of communication channels is being used for the transmission of link pulses generated by the server, wherein the presence of link pulses on one of the communication channels indicates that that particular communication channel and the respective port on the server is not currently being used for data transmission by the server and is are available; and

a controller that establishes a connection between the device and the available server port using one of the available communication channels determined to have the link pulses.

14. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein the monitoring system monitors one of the plurality of communication channels at a time for the one or more link pulses.

15. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14 wherein the monitoring system disables the other of the plurality of communication channels while the one of the plurality of communication channels is monitored for the one or more link pulses.

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16. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein each of the devices has one of the monitoring systems.

17. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 16 further comprising a blocking system that blocks the communication channel monitored to have the link pulses for the one device from the other devices.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 13 further comprising an indicator that indicates which of the plurality of communication channels was the established communication channel for the device.

19-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said monitoring is performed for each device and more than one of the devices are simultaneously connectable to different ones of the server ports determined to be available.

32. (New) The medium as set forth in claim 7, wherein said monitoring is performed for each device and more than one of the devices are simultaneously connectable to different ones of the server ports determined to be available.

33. (New) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein more than one of the devices are simultaneously connectable to different ones of the server ports determined to be available.

34. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said monitored communication channels are external to the server.

35. (New) The medium as set forth in claim 7, wherein said monitored communication channels are external to the server.

36. (New) The system as set forth in claim 13, wherein said monitored communication channels are external to the server.

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